

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method of reinforcing a dental impression tray after the patient bites into the tray. In this particular embodiment, a joint in the tray's posterior is reinforced prior to intraoral placement by a removable wire running through hooks in the tray's rim. Removing the wire after the patient bites 5 imparts flexibility to the joint, and then the tray's frame becomes rigid intraorally when an uncured immobilizing agent previously applied to the joint is cured or is self-cured. The tray's initial rigidity facilitates handling; its subsequent flexibility reduces the frame's plastic memory; and its subsequent rigidity durably locks the tray into a pressure-relieved position, reducing springback distortion.